

National Space Society
Statement on the International Space Station

The National Space Society notes with great regret that the corrective actions taken by NASA in order to stay within International Space Station (ISS) Congressional spending caps will severely limit crew size and operational capability, as well as scientific benefits, aboard the station.

The National Space Society therefore urges that:

1. ISS be augmented with capability for a full crew of 6 or 7 people, on the earliest time scale practicable within reasonable budget constraints.

2. An "ISS Applications Program" should be implemented as soon as possible, to begin steps towards the objective of expanding human presence beyond low Earth orbit, and to take full advantage of our investment in ISS.

3. NASA develop and publish, this year, a plan for such an ISS Applications Program, such plan to include consideration of the components that were recently deleted from the ISS assembly sequence.

4. A Non-Governmental Organization be created to support management of the space station and to develop commercial applications of the space station.

5. The Bush Administration amend the national space policy to restore the objective "to expand human presence and activities beyond Earth orbit into the Solar System".

[Approved by NSS Policy Committee, March 2001]